

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 HA-05 AID-05 TRSE-00 /092 W
-----041624 280425Z /41

R 261413Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4550
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
RUWMFHIGXAMEMBASSY VICTORIA 779

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 1338

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PINT, KE, SO
SUBJECT: KENYA TO IMPLEMENT IDENTITY CARD SCHEME

REF: 77 NAIROBI 13541

1. VICE PRESIDENT MOI ANNOUNCED JANUARY 25 THAT BEGINNING FEBRUARY 1 GOK WOULD INITIATE SCHEME INVOLVING COMPULSORY REGISTRATION OF ALL KENYANS. ADDRESSING GROUP OF OFFICIALS NOW BEING TRAINED TO IMPLEMENT REGISTRATION PLAN, MOI INDICATED THAT EACH CITIZEN WOULD EVENTUALLY BE ISSUED A LAMINATED CARD CONTAINING NAME, PHOTOGRAPH, AND AN IDENTIFYING NUMBER. HE ADDED THAT REGISTRATION EFFORT WILL BEGIN IN EASTERN AND NORTH EASTERN PROVINCES AND THEN PROCEED TO OTHER AREAS. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT CARD WILL ALSO REFLECT BEARER'S TRIBAL AFFILIATION.

2. COMMENT: GOK HAS HAD SUCH A SCHEME UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR SOME TIME. IT FIRST CAME TO PUBLIC ATTENTION IN OCTOBER, 1977 IN CONTEXT OF GOK ORCHESTRATED PRESS CAMPAIGN
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WHICH STIRRED CONCERN ABOUT ACTIVITIES OF ETHNICA SOMALIS IN KENYA(SEE REFTTEL). INDEED, IT IS CLEAR THAT PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF SCHEME IS TO ENHANCE INTERNAL SECURITY BY PROVIDING TOOL TO FACILITATE IDENTIFICATION AND CONTROL OF ETHNIC SOMALIS IN EASTERN AND NORTH EASTERN PROVINCES. SECNDARY OBJECTIVE IS TO INCULCATE SENSE OF BELONGING TO KENYAN NATION AMONG ALL

HOLDERS, AND ETHNIC SOMALIS IN PARTICULAR.

3. LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN ESTABLISHING THIS
KIND OF REGISTRATION PROGRAM IN AN AREA INHABITED
PRIMARILY BY NOMADS ARE ENORMOUS. UNLESS GOK COMMIT
GREAT RESOURCES TO PROGRAM, IT IS NOT LIKELY TO PROGRESS
SWIFTLY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: IDENTITY DOCUMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NAIROB01338
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780042-0156
Format: TEL
From: NAIROBI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780119/aaaaaueu.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 023b09e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 NAIROBI 13541
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3708851
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KENYA TO IMPLEMENT IDENTITY CARD SCHEME
TAGS: PBOR, PINT, KE, SO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/023b09e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014